

7th February 1925]

A.—The report called for was received and the information furnished to the hon. Member on 29th January 1925.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

223 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MOOSA SAIT: With reference to answer to question No. 437 (5), will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state if the scheme has since been approved by the Government?

A.—The scheme has not yet been finally approved.

Establishment of land mortgage banks.

224 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether any decision has been reached regarding the proposal to establish land mortgage banks in this Presidency; and

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, the number of banks proposed to be established and their places and to lay on the table, order, if any passed, by Government?

A.—(a) If funds are available it is proposed to open four land mortgage banks in 1925-26.

(b) The places provisionally selected for opening banks are Conjeeveram in Chingleput district, Ambur in North Arcot district and Kallakurichi in South Arcot. It is hoped also to open a bank in Kistna or Salem district.

II

PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS IN MARCH.

An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I think hon. Members have had notices from the Secretary of the dates connected with the Budget.
11-15 a.m. It is usual to announce them in public and I do so here—

Presentation of the estimates to the Legislative Council. 2nd March 1925 (Monday).

Discussion of the estimates in the Legislative Council. 4th, 5th and 6th March 1925.

Latest date for the receipt of notices from non-official members of the Legislative Council for reduction or omission of grants. 3 p.m. on 9th March 1925.

Voting of grants by the Legislative Council ... 16th to 27th March 1925 inclusive; that is, ten days excluding the 22nd March (Sunday) and 25th March (Telugu New year's day).

Voting on further demands for grants ... 30th March 1925.”

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Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Will any days be allotted as non-official days in March, Sir ? "

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I can only say, Sir, that, as my hon. Friend is aware, the allotment is made by His Excellency. His Excellency has the matter under consideration. A point that arises is that it has not been usual in the past to allot any non-official days during the discussion of the Budget, but His Excellency is anxious on this occasion to make provision for non-official business, if possible. I have been in communication with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition on the question whether Members would like to have non-official business during the days that intervene between the actual introduction of the Budget and its discussion in the Council. For example they might like to use the balance of the day after the introduction of the Budget on the 2nd March for the purpose of discussing resolutions. For this purpose it is not necessary for His Excellency to make any allotment. In the ordinary course, after the Government work is finished, any portion that may be left may be devoted to other work. The question whether a further allotment for non-official business is to be made remains open, and I understand that if it is the general desire of the House to sit after the 30th March, His Excellency is quite prepared to take into consideration the allotment of non-official days in April. I propose to consult my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition further on this matter."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" If it is not inconvenient for the Government, two days, the 1st and 2nd April, may be fixed. That will be more convenient for the House, because it is not likely to meet for some months afterwards. We may not meet till August, and it is therefore desirable that two days should be allotted in April."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I shall convey the wishes of the House in this matter to His Excellency, Sir."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" I understand from what the hon. the Leader of the House said that any portion of the day that is allotted for Government business, after the Government business is over, may be allotted for non-official business."

* The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" No, Sir. It is not a question of allotment. It comes about automatically under the rules ; any part of a Government day which is not occupied by Government business is at the disposal of private Members."

III

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have to mention another matter to the House. It was usual, up to the time of the present reformed Councils, to register the attendance of hon. Members, and it is for many reasons desirable to renew it. One of these reasons is to assist hon. Members themselves in drawing up their travelling allowance bills. Moreover, Government as well as the Council Office would like to have definite information as to the Members present or absent on a particular day of a Council meeting. The question is how it is to be done, and I thought I had better put it before the House, so that I may know how hon. Members would like it to be done. My idea is to keep a book at the entrance and to request hon. Members to sign it once a day at any time they may please during their